

horizon of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP). Housing being a State subject, the recommendations have also been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary follow-up action at their end, in formulating State action plans.

[Translation]

Encounters

636. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of encounters which took place after formation of the new Government in Jammu & Kashmir;
- (b) the number of jawans/extremists/innocent people killed in these encounters; and
- (c) the incidents in which Pakistan's intelligence agency has been found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) According to available information there had been around 228 incidents of cross firing/encounters during the period from 16th October, 1996 to 15th February, 1997 in Jammu and Kashmir. 64 Security Force Personnel, 259 militants and 383 civilians were killed in incidents of terrorist related violence, encounters, during this period.

(c) The ISI has been consistently involved in fuelling, aiding and abetting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir; it is not practically feasible to identify any specific incidents in this context.

[English]

Poverty Alleviation

637. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Steering Group has been constituted to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the linkage of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) with Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is found not to be satisfactory; and
- (d) if so, the reason thereof and the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) A Steering Group for the

Ninth Plan was constituted by the Planning Commission to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in rural areas. The Constitution of this Committee and its terms of reference is enclosed as Statement. The last meeting of the Steering Group chaired by Member, Rural Development took place on 19th November, 1996.

(c) and (d) One of the shortcomings of IRDP as revealed by the Fourth Round of the Concurrent Evaluation Survey (1992-93) is the poor linkage of IRDP with its allied schemes of TRYSEM and DWCRA. The Quick Evaluation of TRYSEM (June-August 1993) showed that of the total number of beneficiaries who got training under TRYSEM, roughly 54 per cent did not apply for loan under IRDP and of the remaining youth, about 50 per cent were given assistance under IRDP. The Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP indicated that only 56 per cent of the TRYSEM trained beneficiaries who were assisted under IRDP received assistance for the activity for which they were trained. A little more than 2 per cent of family members of IRDP beneficiaries were assisted under DWCRA.

The reason for a modest number of TRYSEM beneficiaries applying for loans under IRDP could be to that some of the TRYSEM beneficiaries for service in the organised sector or wage employment or have problems in approaching the banks for loans. In order to forge closer links between IRDP and TRYSEM, it has been emphasised that during the training period itself, the loan application forms of trainees be sent to the banks. Low coverage of IRDP beneficiaries under DWCRA could be related to the difficulties in mobilising women for group activities. The Ministry has emphasised thrift and credit activities as the rallying point for group activities. This should facilitate a closer link between IRDP and DWCRA.

Statement

No. M-12018/2/95-RD

Government of India

Planning Commission

Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi, 24th Jan., 1996.

ORDER

Subject:- Constitution of Steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

In pursuance of the decision taken by the Planning Commission vide circular No. 11016/12/95-PC dated 30-9-1995, it is proposed to set up a Steering Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

II. The composition of the Steering Group will be as follows:

1. Dr. Jayant Patil,
Member, Planning Commission,
New Delhi.

Chairman